

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 12, 1951

FROM : SAC, Buffalo

SUBJECT: MINUTE WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
SUZANNE SILVERCRUYS STEVENSON, FOUNDER
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Remytel 1/12/50 advising of the activities of subject STEVENSON in this area and her alleged representations that the subject organization was approved by the Bureau, which is also allegedly cooperating with subject STEVENSON by furnishing her reports on various individuals.

Since November, 1950, this office has been receiving inquiries from various individuals in Buffalo concerning the patriotic nature of the subject organization. No statement has been made by this office favorable to or derogatory toward the movement.

Members of the public who have inquired about the organization have stated that the announced purposes of the group appear to be patriotic and worthy but the individuals inquiring have expressed a sense of reservation and seem to suspect that the group might have some concealed purposes of questionable nature.

On January 11, 1951, Mrs. CARL WATERMAN, of 127 Kinsey Avenue, Kenmore, N. Y., advised that she had attended a meeting of the Buffalo Federation of Women's Clubs, which was held at the Hotel Lafayette, Buffalo, on January 9, 1951, at which Dr. SUZANNE SILVERCRUYS STEVENSON was the featured speaker.

According to Mrs. WATERMAN, Mrs. STEVENSON spoke in behalf of the subject organization and declared that the group was originated in Connecticut in 1949 and is now mushrooming into a women's organization of nationwide scope. Mrs. STEVENSON was said to have announced as her objective the formation of branches of this organization throughout the Country at the community level and she particularly urged women who were active in church groups to establish local chapters.

Mrs. WATERMAN stated that she had been designated to act on the proposal on behalf of the Kenmore Methodist Church women. According to Mrs. WATERMAN, the purposes of the organization as outlined by subject STEVENSON are substantially as follows:

- (1) To pray for Divine Guidance for the restoration of American traditions.
- (2) To combat Communism.

CFA:avc
100-0-11185

cc: New Haven

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(3) To demand the removal of Communists and Socialists from the Federal and State Government services and the educational field.

(4) To work for the rebirth of free enterprise and the abolition of all Government restrictions and regimentation on business, except those absolutely necessary for a balanced economy.

(5) To restore the soundness of United States currency.

(6) To work for the passage of a constitutional amendment to limit the tenure of the Presidency to two terms.

(7) To encourage women to vote at elections.

(8) To stimulate activity by women in local politics at the ward and precinct level.

(9) To encourage women to express themselves to members of Congress on legislative proposals.

Mrs. WATERMAN stated that subject STEVENSON claims to be a woman of Belgian birth and a naturalized citizen of the United States, whose husband is an Army officer. She also allegedly reported that her brother-in-law is the Belgian ambassador to the United States. Mrs. WATERMAN recited that subject STEVENSON reported that the Director of the FBI is aware of this movement and that it meets with his approval. Mrs. STEVENSON further reported that she has been working in close cooperation with the FBI and that the FBI has cooperated with her to the extent of furnishing her with reports on various individuals of whose sincerity in this movement she was sceptical.

Mrs. WATERMAN further stated that Mrs. STEVENSON announced that CECIL B. DEWILLE, the film producer, is interested in the subject organization and is cooperating by producing a film favorable to the subject organization.

It was further announced by Mrs. STEVENSON that the subject organization is not to develop into a highly financed, highly organized

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"pressure group", but rather is intended to function without any paid employees and to depend upon patriotically inclined American women at the community level for the source of its influence.

Mrs. WATERMAN was advised that the duties of the FBI are primarily those of law enforcement and that it does not undertake to endorse or disapprove any organization and that in the absence of an allegation which would indicate that an organization is violating a Federal law, the FBI would have no occasion to conduct any investigation of a group.

With reference to the representation by subject STEVENSON that the Bureau was cooperating with her to the extent of furnishing reports on various individuals, Mrs. WATERMAN was informed that the facilities of the FBI are available only for official purposes of the United States Government and that any representation that the FBI investigative reports were being furnished for other than such purposes was inaccurate.

In response to questions as to whether she was in possession of any information which might indicate that the organization was operating in violation of Federal law, Mrs. WATERMAN replied in the negative. She acknowledged that her misgivings concerning possible surreptitious purposes of the group were motivated by an article which was recently published in a national magazine concerning the misdirection of organizations toward subversive purposes with resulting embarrassment to many well intentioned American citizens.

In response to Mrs. WATERMAN'S question as to whether the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations might include the subject organization, Mrs. WATERMAN was referred to the Civil Service Commission. Mrs. WATERMAN added that Mrs. STEVENSON was a very fluent speaker with a disarming personality and that Mrs. STEVENSON had made a very favorable impression on her audience but that, nevertheless, there was an undercurrent of reservation among the women present.

The Buffalo Courier Express, a daily newspaper in Buffalo, N.Y., in its Sunday edition of January 7, 1959, carried a lengthy story concerning the subject organization and subject STEVENSON. The organization was described as a "women's crusade, whose major purpose is to defeat Communism in every form." The purposes of the organization were enumerated substantially as set forth above. Several apparently reputable Buffalo women were named as guests who had been seated at the speaker's table and other equally reputable women were listed as supporting the organization.

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Less detailed publicity has appeared in the Buffalo Evening News, another daily Buffalo newspaper.

Inasmuch as this organization allegedly has its origin in Connecticut, a copy of this letter is being furnished to the New Haven Division for its information.

This communication is being forwarded to the Bureau merely because of the assertions that Mrs. STEVENSON has in effect reported that the Bureau has endorsed the organization and further, because of her statement that she is receiving results of Bureau investigations.

No investigation of the subject organization or of subject STEVENSON is contemplated at this time.

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